

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	EAS.76
Historic Name:	
Common Name:	House with Five Chimneys - Tory Hill
Address:	540 Massasoit Rd
City/Town:	Eastham
Village/Neighborhood:	North Eastham
Local No:	08-154
Year Constructed:	r 1830
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Greek Revival
Use(s):	Other Cultural; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture; Art
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Wood Shingle Wall: Wood Clapboard; Wood Shingle; Wood Foundation: Poured Concrete



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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FORM B - BUILDING

P. N. EAST
EAS. 76

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Assessor's
Number

08/154

USGS Quad

Orleans

Area(s)

Form Number

76

Town

Eastham



neighborhood or village)

540 Massasoit Road

lc Name

Present

Residential

Original

"

Construction

First Half of
the 19th C.

See Bibliography*

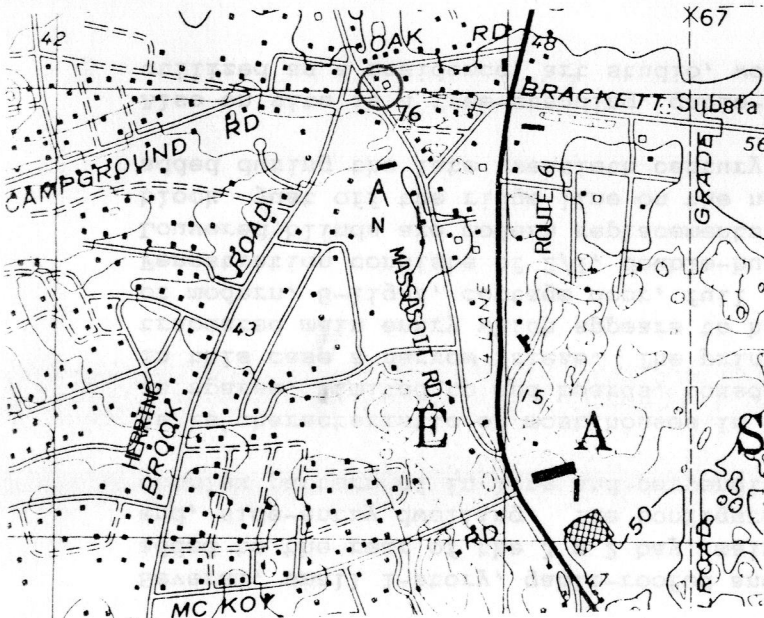
Form

Greek Revival

ect/Builder

or Material:

here. Indicate North.



Foundation

Poured Concrete

Wall/Trim

Clapboard (N elevation)
Shingles (Other elevations)

Roof

Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Major Alterations (with dates) Numerous
unspecified modernization reported by 20th
C. owners.

Condition

Good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage

.7 Acres

Setting Located in a moderately-settled,
rural area on the SE corner of the
intersection of Oak and Massasoit Roads.

Recorded by: Dianne L. Siergiej
and Sanford Johnson
Organization: Commonweal Collaborative

Date: August 1995

RECEIVED

SEP 20 1995

MASS. HIST. COMM.

BUILDING FORM

540 Massasoit Road

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION See continuation sheet.

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

Several, small 1-story, gable-roofed and shed-roofed appendages have been added to the rear of the 3 x 2 bay, main block of this Greek Revival, gable-end, side-entry dwelling. The configuration of these additions forms a complex pattern of in line and perpendicular orientations.

As is characteristic of most houses in Eastham of all periods, detailing is sparse, limited to end boards, boxed, molded cornice with return and in this case a narrow frieze. The principal Greek Revival element is the trabeated main entry which appears to have been somewhat altered. It consists of modern, 8-light, cottage door, full side lights and louvered transom. Fenestration consists of 2/1, double-hung sash with molded trim. Louvered blinds are modern replacements. The chimney is located on the main block just off the ridge line on the north slope of the roof. The cellar was added during the late twentieth century.

Also on site is a free-standing, gable-roofed, shingled barn which has been utilized as a residence, art studio, work shop and store.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE X See continuation sheet.

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Massasoit Road was developed during the Federal Period (1775-1830). By the end of the Federal Period, Methodists had established a campground near Campground Road off Massasoit Road. This center for summer religious retreats lasted from 1830 to 1862 when the camp moved to Yarmouth. By 1831, one of Eastham's five schools and many residences were located on Massasoit Road.

It is likely that many of the residents were involved in agriculture. Grains were an early cash crop in Eastham and later, asparagus and turnips became more common. Husbandry and fishing were also important sources of income for Massasoit Road residents. By 1901, at least seven farmers were living on Massasoit Road. There were also a clerk, lighthouse keeper, laborer and a grocer. A provisions store was located on the corner of Oak and Massasoit Roads. By the twentieth century, the road had become an important way from Orleans through Eastham to Wellfleet. Seasonal residents had begun building summer homes and cottages by the Early Modern Period.

Local tradition holds that this house was built in 1803 and remodeled in the 1850's. Deed research completed in 1992 by Nancy Heller of the Eastham Historical Society and by current owners, Harry and Betti Klinger, however, traces the property to 1846 when John W. and Benjamin Higgins transferred five acres of land to Lincoln F. Cobb. The next conveyance of the property, Lincoln F. Cobb to Caroline L. Phillips, indicates both land and buildings were included. The difficulty of reconciling the house to apparent changes in

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES X See continuation sheet.

 Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places;
If checked, see attached National Register Criteria Statement form.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

540 Massasoit Road
Eastham

Area Form No. 76

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (continued)

local roads make it difficult to support either date from local maps. A house attributed to L. F. Cobb appears in the area on the 1858 map. Material evidence reported by former owners, a board with the date "1851" carved on it and some newspapers dating from the 1850's found in a wall, could support either construction date. On the 1880 map of Eastham, two adjacent houses are attributed to A. Cobb who is not included in the chain of title. None of the above-mentioned owners is listed in local secondary sources.

James Phillips is noted in the 1901 resident directory as a poultry dealer at the corner of West Street and Oak Grove which coincides with the present location. By 1908, the house was still occupied by J. Phillips who was likely related to Caroline. Other twentieth century owners were Warren Burgess who purchased the property in 1926 and James Y. Gill who bought part of the holding and the house from Burgess in 1927 then sold to Augustus Crowley the next year. The latter appears to have defaulted on his mortgage since John B. Reed, Jr. assumed control in 1933 by purchasing a foreclosure deed from the Cape Cod Five Cent Savings Bank.

In the twentieth century, the dwelling has been named the "House With Five Chimneys" and "Tory Hill". It was the subject of a 1935 Edward Hopper painting entitled "House With Big Pine."

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (continued)

*House File 540 Massasoit Road, Eastham Historical Society Archives.

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